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**In Cooperation with:**

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## **Record High Corn and Soybean Yields Expected in Kentucky**

**LOUISVILLE, Ky.** – The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) released its crop production report today from the October Agricultural Yield Survey conducted at the beginning of the month. Based on October 1 conditions, the report showed Kentucky corn and soybean yields may be record highs. Kentucky’s average corn yield was forecast at 181 bushels per acre, and soybeans were expected to yield 55 bushels per acres.

“Crop conditions were generally better than average for most of the season”, said David Knopf, director of the NASS Eastern Mountain Regional Office in Kentucky. “Soybeans rated as good and excellent reached 16 points above the 5-year average in September, and corn conditions were similar. A majority of the corn crop has been harvested and over one-third of the soybeans have been harvested.”

**Corn** production is forecast at 246 million bushels, down 5% from the September forecast and up slightly from the previous crop. Yield was estimated at 181 bushels per acre, unchanged bushels from last month and up 12 bushels from the 2019 level. If realized, it would break the record high yield of 178 bushels per acre set in 2017. Acres for harvest as grain were estimated at 1.36 million acres, down 90,000 acres from 2019. The **U.S.** corn production is forecast at 14.7 billion bushels, down 1% from the September forecast and up 8% from 2019. Based on conditions as of October 1, yields are expected to average 178.4 bushels per acre, down 0.1 bushels from last month and up 10.9 bushels from 2019. Area harvested for grain is forecast at 82.5 million acres, down 1% from the September forecast and up 1% from 2019.

**Soybean** production for **Kentucky** is forecast at 101 million bushels, unchanged from the September forecast and up 30% from 2019. Yield was estimated at 55 bushels per acre, unchanged bushels from last month and up 9.0 bushels from a year ago. At 55 bushels per acre a new yield record would be set surpassing 53 bushels per acre in 2017. Acreage for harvest as beans was estimated at 1.84 million acres, up 150,000 acres from the previous year. **U.S.** soybean production is forecast at 4.27 billion bushels, down 1% from the September forecast and up 20% from last year. Based on October 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 51.9 bushels per acre, unchanged bushels from last month and up 4.5 bushels from last year. Area for harvest is forecast at 82.3 million acres, down 1% from the September forecast and up 10% from 2019.

**Kentucky burley tobacco** production is forecast at 68.4 million pounds, up 12% from the September forecast and down 12% from 2019. Yield was projected at 1,900 pounds per acre, up 200 pounds from last month and unchanged pounds from the 2019 crop. Harvested acreage was estimated at 36,000 acres, down 5,000 acres from last year's crop. For the **burley producing states** production is forecast at 79.7 million pounds, down 14 % from last year. Burley growers plan to harvest 41,700 acres, down 14% from 2019. Yields were expected to average 1,911 pounds per acre, up 1 pound from last year.

Production of **Kentucky dark fire-cured** tobacco is forecast at 24.0 million pounds, up 3% from the September forecast and down 13% from the previous year. **Dark air-cured** tobacco production is forecast at 15.8 million pounds, up 7% from the September forecast and down 12% from last year.

**Alfalfa hay** production by **Kentucky** farmers is forecast at 420,000 tons, down 9% the 2019 level. **Other hay** production is estimated at 4.86 million tons, up 23% from last year.

**CROP PRODUCTION SUMMARY, October 1  
KENTUCKY AND UNITED STATES**

Crops	Area Planted <sup>1</sup>		Area Harvested		Yield Per Acre			Production	
	2019	2020	2019	2020 <sup>2</sup>	2019	2020		2019	2020
						Sep 1 <sup>1</sup>	Oct 1 <sup>2</sup>		
	KENTUCKY								
	<i>(1,000 acres)</i>	<i>(1,000 acres)</i>	<i>(1,000 acres)</i>	<i>(1,000 acres)</i>	<i>(bushels)</i>	<i>(bushels)</i>	<i>(bushels)</i>	<i>(1,000 bushels)</i>	<i>(1,000 bushels)</i>
Corn <sup>3</sup>	1,550	1,480	1,450	1,360	169.0	181.0	181.0	245,050	246,160
Soybeans <sup>3</sup>	1,700	1,850	1,690	1,840	46.0	55.0	55.0	77,740	101,200
Wheat, Winter <sup>34</sup>	460	510	330	340	76.0	63.0	--	25,080	21,420
	<i>(1,000 acres)</i>	<i>(1,000 acres)</i>	<i>(1,000 acres)</i>	<i>(1,000 acres)</i>	<i>(tons)</i>	<i>(tons)</i>	<i>(tons)</i>	<i>(1,000 tons)</i>	<i>(1,000 tons)</i>
Hay:									
All	--	--	1,945	1,940	2.27	--	2.72	4,424	5,280
Alfalfa	--	--	145	140	3.20	--	3.00	464	420
Other, All	--	--	1,800	1,800	2.20	--	2.70	3,960	4,860
	<i>(acres)</i>	<i>(acres)</i>	<i>(acres)</i>	<i>(acres)</i>	<i>(pounds)</i>	<i>(pounds)</i>	<i>(pounds)</i>	<i>(1,000 pounds)</i>	<i>(1,000 pounds)</i>
Tobacco:									
All	--	--	57,400	50,200	2,150	1,967	2,156	123,390	108,210
Burley	--	--	41,000	36,000	1,900	1,700	1,900	77,900	68,400
Dark-Fire Cured	--	--	9,500	8,000	2,900	2,900	3,000	27,550	24,000
Dark-Air Cured	--	--	6,900	6,200	2,600	2,300	2,550	17,940	15,810
	UNITED STATES								
	<i>(1,000 acres)</i>	<i>(1,000 acres)</i>	<i>(1,000 acres)</i>	<i>(1,000 acres)</i>	<i>(bushels)</i>	<i>(bushels)</i>	<i>(bushels)</i>	<i>(1,000 bushels)</i>	<i>(1,000 bushels)</i>
Corn <sup>3</sup>	89,745	90,978	81,337	82,527	167.5	178.5	178.4	13,619,928	14,721,705
Soybeans <sup>3</sup>	76,100	83,105	74,939	82,289	47.4	51.9	51.9	3,551,908	4,267,890
Wheat, Winter <sup>34</sup>	31,474	30,415	24,592	23,024	53.6	50.9	--	1,316,963	1,171,022
	<i>(1,000 acres)</i>	<i>(1,000 acres)</i>	<i>(1,000 acres)</i>	<i>(1,000 acres)</i>	<i>(tons)</i>	<i>(tons)</i>	<i>(tons)</i>	<i>(1,000 tons)</i>	<i>(1,000 tons)</i>
Hay:									
All	--	--	52,425	52,381	2.46	--	2.44	128,864	127,678
Alfalfa	--	--	16,743	16,352	3.28	--	3.22	54,875	52,625
Other, All	--	--	35,682	36,029	2.07	--	2.08	73,989	75,053
	<i>(acres)</i>	<i>(acres)</i>	<i>(acres)</i>	<i>(acres)</i>	<i>(pounds)</i>	<i>(pounds)</i>	<i>(pounds)</i>	<i>(1,000 pounds)</i>	<i>(1,000 pounds)</i>
Tobacco:									
All	--	--	227,120	195,450	2,060	1,880	1,983	467,956	387,585
Burley	--	--	48,600	41,700	1,910	1,717	1,911	92,830	79,675
Dark-Fire Cured	--	--	16,120	13,950	2,839	2,903	2,978	45,766	41,550
Dark-Air Cured	--	--	9,900	9,900	2,464	2,373	2,494	24,390	24,690

<sup>1</sup> Commodities with estimates not available are (denoted by "--"). <sup>2</sup> Forecasted. <sup>3</sup> Area harvested represents grain. <sup>4</sup> Includes area planted in preceding fall.